

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1823
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 17605

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR SY AG EG
SUBJECT: NO SADAT/BOUMEDIENE MEETING AT OAU SUMMIT

REFL (A) DAMASCUS 4159, (B) ALGIERS 2169 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY. SADAT DID NOT MEET WITH BOUMEDIENE IN KHARTOUM, ALTHOUGH ALGERIAN HAD APPROACHED CONFIDANT AND URGED MEETING. ALGERIAN HAD BEEN TOLD SADAT BITTERLY DISAPPOINTED AT BOUMEDIENE'S ATTITUDE TOWARD PEACE INITIATIVE AND UNTIL BOUMEDIENE STOPPED SUPPORTING REJECTIONISTS, MEETING UNLIKELY. END SUMMARY.

1. WHEN MEETING WITH SADAT TODAY, I ASKED WHETHER HE AND BOUMEDIENE HAD MET AT RECENT OAU SUMMIT IN KHARTOUM. SADAT AFFIRMED THAT THEY HAD NOT RPT NOT MET. HE WILL HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH LEADERS WHO SIGNED TRIPOLI REJECTIONIST COMMUNIQUE AND ABUSED EGYPT.

2. SADAT INDICATED THAT AN ALGERIAN INITIATIVE HAD INDEED BEEN TAKEN AT KHARTOUM TO EFFECT A RECONCILIATION.
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BOUMEDIENE'S CHIEF PRESS ADVISER (HE DID NOT RECALL NAME) HAD ASKED TO MEET ANIS MANSOUR, EGYPTIAN EDITOR OF OCTOBER MAGAZINE AND CONFIDANT OF SADAT. IN SEVERAL-HOUR-LONG MEETING, ALGERIAN URGED THAT SADAT SHOULD AGREE TO LET BYGONES BE BYGONES AND MEET WITH BOUMEDIENE. MANSOUR HAD TOLD ALGERIAN THAT SADAT REFUSES TO MEET WITH BOUMEDIENE SINCE LATTER SIGNED TRIPOLI COMMUNIQUE

AND ABUSED EGYPT. ALGERIAN CONTENDED BOUMEDIENE DID SO IN AN EFFORT TO RESTRAIN QADHAFI FROM EVEN MORE SCURRILOUS CRITICISM OF EGYPT. ALGERIAN ALSO RECALLED BOUMEDIENE'S PAST HELP TO EGYPT DURING OCTOBER 1973 WAR AND EXPRESSED BOUMEDIENE'S UNHAPPINESS WITH SADAT'S PUBLICLY LIKENING THE ALGERIAN PRESIDENT TO QADHAFI. BOUMEDIENE, SADAT NOTED WITH A TWINKLE, DESPISES QADHAFI AND THE THOUGHT OF BEING LIKENED TO THE LATTER IS ESPECIALLY DIFFICULT TO STOMACH. MANSOUR HAD REPLIED THAT SADAT AND EGYPT ARE DEEPLY APPRECIATIVE OF BOUMEDIENE'S HELP DURING THE OCTOBER WAR, BUT ARE ALSO BITTERLY DISAPPOINTED AT BOUMEDIENE'S SUBSEQUENT ATTITUDE TOWARD SADAT'S PEACE INITIATIVE. UNTIL BOUMEDIENE STOPS SUPPORTING REJECTIONIST FRONT, MANSOUR OPINED THAT ANY PRESIDENTIAL MEETING IS UNLIKELY.

3. RE PARA 5 REF A, IT IS NOT TRUE THAT SADAT HAS EXEMPTED BOUMEDIENE IN CRITICIZING REJECTIONIST FRONT LEADERS. AS REPORTED CAIRO 7233, IN INTERVIEW WITH OCTOBER MAGAZINE EDITOR ANIS MANSOUR IN MARCH, SADAT COMMENTED UNFAVORABLY ON ALGERIA'S LUKEWARM SUPPORT FOR EGYPTIAN WAR PREPARATIONS IN OCTOBER 1973 AND OPINED THAT BOUMEDIENE'S DISLIKE OF MOROCCO CAUSED BY EMBARRASSMENT OVER MOROCCO'S ASSISTANCE DURING ALGERIAN REVOLUTION. SADAT ALSO CLAIMED BOUMEDIENE HAD FABRICATED SAHARA CRISIS AND ALLGED THAT BOUMEDIENE'S SUPPORT FOR

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QADHAFI WAS TO FORESTALL PRO-EGYPTIAN REGIME IN LIBYA. HE ACCUSED BOUMEDIENE OF BACKING QADHAFI BLINDLY AS LONG AS QADHAFI ANTI-EGYPTIAN. WHILE IT IS TRUE BILATERAL RELATIONS HAVE WARMED SLIGHTLY WITH RETURN EGYPTIAN DIPLOMATS TO INTERESTS SECTION IN ALGIERS (CAIRO 16207), THERE LITTLE OTHER INDICATION OF IMPROVEMENT.

4. POLITICAL FOOTBALL. AKHBAR'S MAIN STORY HEADLINED DECISION OF AFRICAN FOOTBALL FEDERATION TO EXPELL LIBYA FROM SOCCER EVENTS OF THIRD AFRICA GAMES IN ALGERIA. THE FEDERATION HELD THE LIBYAN TEAM, ALONG WITH ALGERIAN POLICE, RESPONSIBLE FOR ASSAULTS ON EGYPTIAN PLAYERS DURING LIBYAN-EGYPTIAN MATCH. GOE FLEW EGYPTIAN TEAM HOME LAST NIGHT, REJECTING LAST-MINUTE PLEA BY ALGERIA THAT EGYPTIAN TEAM REMAIN. PRESS REPORTS GOE HAS DECIDED EGYPT WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN ANY SPORTS EVENT HELD IN ANY "REJECTIONIST" FRONT COUNTRY (INCLUDING ALGERIA) NOR WILL EGYPT INVITE ANY "REJECTIONIST" TEAMS TO PLAY HERE. EILTS

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